

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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TAGS: EC, IS, UN

SUBJECT: EC-9 UNGA STATEMENT ON MIDDLE EAST

FOR KINSOLVING

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT DELIVERED BY DUTCH
AMBASSADOR KAUFMANN, ON BEHALF OF EC-9, TO UNGA, DECEMBER 7,
1976:

2. BEGIN TEXT: "SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE NINE COUNTRIES
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, I SHOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE
HOW IMPORTANT WE CONSIDER THIS DEBATE.

3. THERE IS NO NEED FOR ME TO STRESS THE CLOSE AND LONG-
STANDING LINKS THAT BIND OUR COUNTRIES WITH THOSE IN THE
AREA. THIS DEBATE PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONSIDER THE
QUESTION OF THE MIDDLE EAST IN ALL ITS ASPECTS.

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4. THE COMMON POSITION OF OUR NINE COUNTRIES WAS EXPRESSED
MOST RECENTLY IN THE GENERAL DEBATE DURING THIS SESSION OF
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FROM THIS VERY ROSTRUM BY THE NETHER-
LANDS FOREIGN MINISTER, MR. VAN DER STOEL, ON BEHALF OF THE
NINE COUNTRIES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES. IN ADDITION,

A NUMBER OF OUR FOREIGN MINISTERS HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR
VIEWS ON THE QUESTION OF THE MIDDLE EAST. ALL THOSE
STATEMENTS REFLECT OUR COMMON CONCERN ABOUT THE CONTINUING
SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION IN THE AREA AND MAKE CLEAR

THE IMPORTANCE WHICH WE ATTACH TO FURTHER PROGRESS BEING MADE TOWARDS A JUST AND LASTING SETTLEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THIS RECONFIRMS OUR POSITION, WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN VOICED DURING LAST YEAR'S DEBATE ON THIS ITEM BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY, AMBASSADOR VINCI, WHO SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE NINE COUNTRIES OF THE COMMUNITIES. WE VERY MUCH REGRET THAT FOR SEVERAL REASONS IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE, DURING THE YEAR THAT HAS ELAPSED, TO MAKE THE PROGRESS THAT WE HAD HOPED FOR.

5. A MAJOR COMPLICATING FACTOR IN THIS HAVE BEEN THE TRAGIC DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANON ABOUT WHICH OUR COUNTRIES HAVE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS EXPRESSED THEIR PROFOUND CONCERN. WE HAVE THEREFORE NOTED WITH GREAT SATISFACTION THE DECISIVE IMPROVEMENT IN THE SITUATION IN LEBANON FOLLOWING THE SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF THE MEETING IN RIYADH AND THE ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN CAIRO IN OCTOBER. THE NINE HAVE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS AFFIRMED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF LEBANON. IN THIS CONTEXT, WE SHOULD LIKE TO REITERATE OUR ASSURANCE TO PRESIDENT SARKIS OF OUR GOODWILL AND SUPPORT IN THE FORMIDABLE TASK OF RECONSTRUCTING LEBANON. OUR COUNTRIES, BOTH INDIVIDUALLY AND THROUGH THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, HAVE DEMONSTRATED OUR SUPPORT BY CONTRIBUTING TO A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES, INCLUDING THAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS ITSELF, WHICH HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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BEEN TAKEN TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS STILL FACING LEBANON.

6. IN THE SAME SPIRIT I SHOULD LIKE TO RECALL, IN MY CAPACITY AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, THAT THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY HAS NEGOTIATED BROAD ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WITH THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION. IT STANDS READY TO BROADEN THE EXISTING AGREEMENT WITH LEBANON. OBVIOUSLY PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION.

7. THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE SITUATION IN LEBANON HAS COINCIDED WITH OTHER FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA. IN THIS REGARD WE HAVE NOTED THAT STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE BY LEADERS ON ALL SIDES, BOTH IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND HERE IN THIS ASSEMBLY, WHICH SEEM TO INDICATE A CERTAIN CONVERGENCE OF VIEW THAT THE TIME MAY SHORTLY BE RIPE TO BRING ABOUT THE RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS TOWARDS A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT.

8. OUR NINE COUNTRIES CONSIDER IT OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT THIS OPPORTUNITY SHOULD BE GRASPED. WE ALSO HOPE THAT ALL SIDES WILL EXERT THE GREATEST EFFORTS TO FIND A WAY AROUND THE REMAINING OBSTACLES ON THE ROAD

TOWARDS THE CONFERENCE TABLE. IN THIS SPIRIT WE TRUST THAT ALL CONCERNED WILL DO THEIR UTMOST TO REFRAIN FROM ACTIONS WHICH COULD PREJUDICE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROGRESS WHICH NOW EXIST. FOR OUR PART, THE NINE COUNTRIES REMAIN READY TO CONTRIBUTE IN ANY WAY WE CAN TO THE EFFORTS TOWARDS A SETTLEMENT.

9. OUR NINE COUNTRIES REMAIN CONVINCED THAT SUCH NEGOTIATIONS MUST BE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

10. FIRST, THE INADMISSIBILITY OF THE ACQUISITION OF TERRITORY BY FORCE;
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11. SECONDLY, THE NEED FOR ISRAEL TO END THE TERRITORIAL OCCUPATION WHICH IT HAS MAINTAINED SINCE THE CONFLICT OF 1967;

12. THIRDLY, RESPECT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF EVERY STATE IN THE AREA, AND THEIR RIGHT TO LIVE IN PEACE WITHIN SECURE AND RECOGNIZED BOUNDARIES;

13. FOURTHLY, RECOGNITION THAT, IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JUST AND LASTING PEACE, ACCOUNT MUST BE TAKEN OF THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS.

14. THE FIRST THREE PRINCIPLES INCLUDE THE ELEMENTS OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 242 (1967) AND 338 (1973), WHICH PROVIDE THE ONLY AGREED FRAMEWORK FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. WE WOULD OPPOSE ANY UNILATERAL ATTEMPTS TO DETRACT FROM THEM. AT THE SAME TIME, WE HAVE ALSO STATED OUR VIEW THAT THESE THREE PRINCIPLES HAVE TO BE SUPPLEMENTED BY A FOURTH: NAMELY, RECOGNITION OF THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. WE HAVE FURTHERMORE MADE CLEAR THAT THE EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO THE EFFECTIVE EXPRESSION OF THEIR NATIONAL IDENTITY COULD INVOLVE A TERRITORIAL BASIS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

15. WE WOULD, HOWEVER, LIKE TO EMPHASIZE ONCE AGAIN OUR FIRM VIEW THAT ALL THESE ASPECTS MUST BE TAKEN AS A WHOLE. JUST AS WE CONSIDER THAT, IN THE CONTEXT OF A SETTLEMENT,

ISRAEL SHOULD BE READY TO RECOGNIZE THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, SO WE CONSIDER THAT THE ARAB SIDE SHOULD BE READY TO RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT OF ISRAEL TO LIVE IN PEACE WITHIN SECURE AND RECOGNIZED BOUNDARIES.
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16. AS WAS STATED BY THE ITALIAN REPRESENTATIVE IN THE DEBATE ON THIS ITEM ON 2 DECEMBER 1975, OUR NINE COUNTRIES ARE PREPARED TO ASSIST IN SUCH A SETTLEMENT IN A CONCRETE WAY. IN PARTICULAR, WE REMAIN READY TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF PARTICIPATION IN SUCH INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE SECURITY OF ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED.

17. THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS OVER THE YEARS IN EFFORTS TO BRING PEACE TO THE MIDDLE EAST HAS BEEN OF THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE. WE SHOULD LIKE TO PAY A SPECIAL TRIBUTE HERE TO THE TIRELESS EFFORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL. WE ARE ALSO DEEPLY CONSCIOUS OF THE VALUE OF THE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCES, WHOSE PRESENCE REMAINS ESSENTIAL.

18. IN CONCLUSION, WE BELIEVE THAT DURING THE LAST FEW WEEKS THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF SIGNS WHICH SEEM TO INDICATE THAT A MORE REALISTIC ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE NEED FOR AN EARLY RESUMPTION OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS IS BEING ADOPTED. THIS DEBATE ON THE MIDDLE EAST THEREFORE COMES AT AN OPPORTUNE MOMENT. IT IS OUR FERVENT HOPE THAT IT WILL BE CONDUCTED IN A CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER AND THEREBY ENCOURAGE THE MOMENTUM TOWARDS PEACE." END TEXT.
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